A THIRD LETTER

From ——— To the ———

Justum et tenacem propositi Virum,
Non civium ardor prava jubentium;
Non vultus instantis Tiranni
Mente quatit solida. Hor.

AMBITION and AVARICE are Two Vices which are directly opposite to the Character of every TRUE MINISTER; For though an Increase of Power, or of Riches, may be the proper Reward of Honour and Merit, and the most Honest Statesmen, may, with Justice, accept of either: Yet, when the Mind is infected with a *Thirst* after them, all Notions of Truth, Principle and Independency, are lost in such Minds, and, by growing Slaves to their own Passions, they become naturally subservient to Those who can indulge and gratify them.

THE many Examples which every Age can furnish of the Mischiefs which *Ambitious* and *Avaritious* Men have brought upon the Governments they have lived under, are obvious to all Mankind, In obscure Persons, these monstrous Vices frequently lead those that are possessed of them, into Mischiefs and Villainy, and are often the Causes that have brought mean Offenders under the Hands of the Law. But whenever, for the Curse of a Government, the Greatest Statesmen are endowed with these Springs of Corruption and Knavery, the unfortunate Subjects who live under their Influence, must fall Victims to satisfy their gluttonous Appetites, and the State they preside in, will be treated by them, as if it were given by Providence into their Hands, to gratify their Cruel and destructive Passions.

THESE Vices, when they are not strong enough to work the Mind to Publick Knavery and Villainy, frequently throw Shackles on the Hearts of Men, who would otherwise act Uprightly, and restrain them from doing that which is warranted by Justice and Honesty. How many Persons has this Country produced, in former Times, who, convinced of the True Interest of *Ireland*, have avoided and declined to pursue it, for fear of losing a little inconsiderable Imployment, no way suitable to their Ranks or Fortunes? Can there be a more melancholy Prospect, than to see Men of the greatest Abilities, Quality and Estates, make it their utmost Desire, to be admitted *Tools* to a *Court*, where they ought to *preside*, and make no other Use of the Advantages Heaven has given them, than to support those at the Helm in their Attempts to destroy the State? Neither do these misguided Persons consider, That they must, of Course, be involved in the Common Ruin, and fall the First (because they are the Greatest) Sacrifices to the *Ambition* and *Avarice* of Evil Ministers.

OUR Age affords no living Instance of this Nature such is the Care, Justice and Reputation of our Governours, and the Independency of both Houses of Parliament.

IN Publick Affairs, it is the Duty of every Man to be free from *Personal Prejudices*; Neither ought we to oppose any Step that is taking for the Good of our Country, purely because those that are the Contrivers and Advisers of it, are obnoxious to us. There are but too many Precedents of this Nature, where Men have cast the most Black Colours on the Wisest of Administrations, because those that had the Direction of Affairs, were their Enemies in *Private Life*; and this ill Way of Judging may be attended with dangerous Consequences to the Common-Weal.

INTREPIDITY and FIRMNESS are Two Virtues which every TRUE MINISTER must be Master of, or else all the other Talents he is possess'd of, are useless and Barren.

A MAN may be Honest Just, and Righteous; but if he is fearful and Timorous, he will stagger when these great Qualities are most needful to be exerted for the Good of his Country, and he sinks into a *Lukewarm-Patriot*. Some Men of Integrity have been prevailed on to remain Quiet and Unactive, to avoid the Reflections cast upon them by *Vulgar Tongues*. We have heard of considerable Men, in late Reigns, who have retired into the Country, and left the Power of Government in the Hands of others, for fear, if they opposed the Measures then pursuing, they should be branded with the Odious Names of *Jacobites* and *Disaffected Persons*. Such Men as these who, though honest in *Theory*, yet fear to be so in *Practice*, should consider, That of all the Duties which Nature first required, and Reveal'd Religion has since confirm'd, None is more strong or more necessary, than that we owe to our Country. Whoever, therefore, when he has form'd a Judgment on any Subject relating to the Government, yet dreads to declare it by his Actions in that Station of Life where he is naturally called upon to do as it becomes, by his Inactivity, a Party to the very Measures his Reason blames, and his Conscience condemns.

IN *England* this Pusilanimity is more to be warded against, than in most other Countries; For whenever

ever there has appear'd an ill designing Minister, one of his chief Views has been to traduce and terrify those who have had the Courage to adhere inviolably to the Liberties of the Subject. This Method has been generally pursued, and the Situation of Affairs here has always furnished the Tools of a Government with Means to oblige their Masters, and obey their Commands in this Particular. But a bold and daring PATRIOT, will weigh his Actions in the Scale of Reason and Justice; and when once they are agreeable to those Principles, he will pursue his Course steadily, and despising all his Enemies can say of his Behaviour, will not suffer their Malice to be a Protection to their Wickedness. Such a PATRIOT will propose no other Prospect but the Publick Good of the Common Wealth; and if in the attaining of that Great End, by the Villainy of the Times, he should fall a Martyr to his Country, he will, with Comfort consider, That he has answered the Will of his MAKER, who sent him into the World to do Good; or dye, rather than not oppose Evil.

HERE might we go back into History, and see with what great Lustre the Names of such Heroes are deliver'd down to Posterity; and how much more *They* are esteemed who *perish* in a Good Cause, than *Those* who *triumph* in a Bad One. But this is unnecessary at present: For our Co-Temporaries, are all Friends to Justice; and no Man is injured in his *Liberty* or *Fortune*.

IT is incumbent on every Person who lives in a Common-Wealth, to promote the Welfare of it, as much as his Situation of Life will permit him; And therefore, those who act in a little Sphere, ought to exert their Zeal with as much Sincerity, as those of Greater Figure or Power. Such as can have no other Opportunities of Publishing their Thoughts, but by communicating of them to the World in Print, would be wanting in their Duty, should they neglect taking that Method of informing their Fellow-Subjects in Matters, which, perhaps, otherwise, might escape their Knowledge, tho' necessary for them to be acquainted with.

The *Liberty* of SPEECH in Parliament, is the Greatest Jewel that adorns our Government, and frequently has put a Stop to the Designs of bad Men, when they were attempting the Subversion of the Constitution. It has, indeed, frequently been dangerous, and often destructive, to *Patriots* who have made the Best Use of it; but yet there have always been, and I hope ever will be, in both Houses, Men of Honour, Honesty and Intrepidity, to employ the Talents God has endow'd them with, in the Service of their Country; and whom neither Hopes can tempt, or Fear deter from pursuing the Publick Good.

THE *Freedom of the* PRESS, is another Bulwark of our Liberty; and there needs no greater Argument to prove it, than the frequent Attempts that have been made to destroy it, under Pretence of Restraining of it. Wicked Men must naturally labour to have their Actions conceal'd, or, at least, so published, that every Person should credit the Glosses which they themselves throw upon them; But the Judicious Part of Mankind, will be inform'd of every Circumstance before they peremptorily give an Opinion on any Matter whatsoever. In Civil Cases, no Man's Word ought to be taken in his own Cause, nor when he attempts to *justify* an Action he is accused of; but all Parties must be heard before the Court can proceed to give Sentence: And therefore the People of *England* will, in Publick Matters, expect the same Usage before they determine to Blame or Applaud any Action whatsoever, in which they are concern'd.

IT is but too much the Misfortune of the Country we live in, if those in Power grow wanton in the Abuse of it, and endeavour to maintain themselves in the Enjoyment of it, by illegal and unwarrantable Measures; and any among them, shall by the Influence of their Consciences be prevail'd on to oppose such Steps as they judge wicked and dangerous, that they are stiled by the leading Men of the Party they were engaged in (and consequently reputed by their numerous Train of *Sycophants* and *Followers*, *Deserters of their Friends*, because such honest Men refuse to be, what they esteem *Betrayers of their Country*.

THERE have been Grandees only remarkable by their Greatness, and their Greatness has been all *without* them; They resemble certain Fruitless Mountains in some Parts of the World, which I have been in, which produce neither Herb nor Plant. They seem to touch Heaven with their stately Tops, yet serve the Earth for no manner of Use or Benefit at all. Therefore their Sterility makes their Height accurs'd.

WHAT care such Ministers how much the People are provok'd? They had rather that their whole Country should be involv'd in all the Miseries and Desolations of a Civil War, or be made a Prey to a Foreign Invader, than that they themselves should be brought to an Account before an Impartial Tribunal; for, in the first Case, they hope to shift among the Croud, but in the Second, can expect nothing but certain Ruin; for their Conscious Fears presaging what will happen, they know well enough, that the Ills which they have done must be defended with greater; and if the Law Lives, that they must dye.

WHEREFORE, since such great Mischiefs naturally attend the Conduct of Evil Ministers, in whatsoever Countries they happen to preside, as the Histories of all Nations and Ages sufficiently evince, it might well be wish'd, That this or the like Prayer, were added to all the Publick Litanies of Christians, *viz.* "Lord! turn away from all States an Evil, "which is the Cause of so many other Evils. Deny "not Sovereign Princes that Spirit of Conduct, "which is fit for them to govern by! Give them "Understanding enough to Counsell themselves well, "and to chuse their Counsellors as they ought."

To conclude; As the first Advances of Evil Ministers have been commonly BASE and SHAMEFUL, their Progress wicked, and destructive, their short Continuances attended with Hazards and Anxieties, so their Eclipses have ever been most fatal, and their Falls desperate. They are generally surpriz'd with Ruine, and their Defeat is like that of Forlorn Troops, which are cut in Pieces before they can rally, or be reinforc'd.

I am YOUR LORDSHIP'S *&c.*

N. N.

4 JA 55